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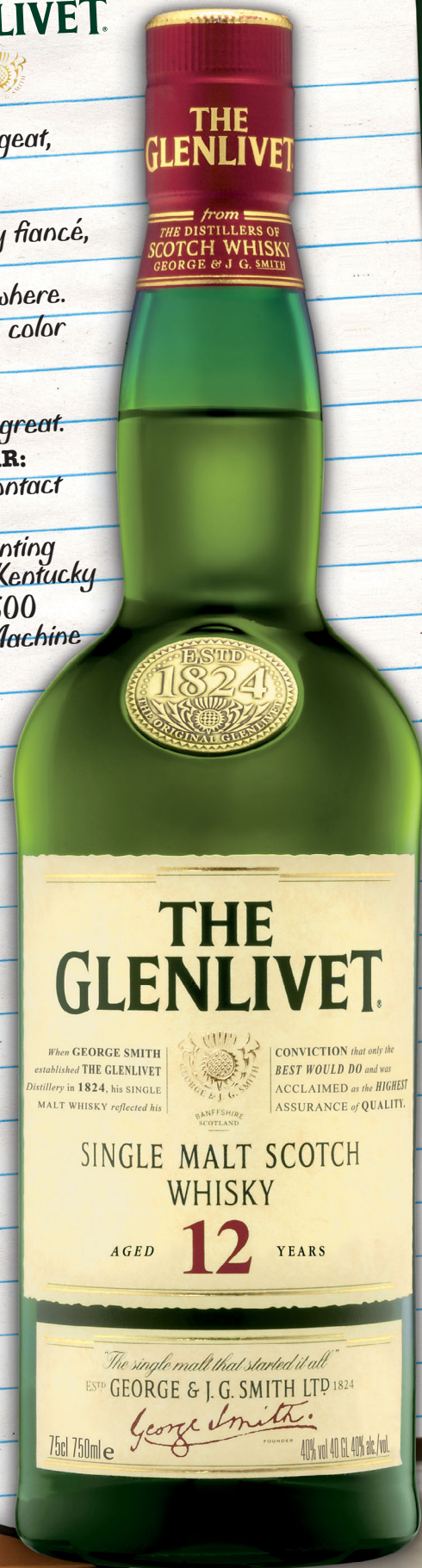
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THE SHORTLIST



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at citypages.com

ADAM IVERSON

THE STAT SHEET:

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Decline in the Twins' attendance through April, the second worst in Major League Baseball

39 million

Estimated number of Americans who can't afford a vacation this summer, according to Bankrate

\$71,000

Amount a Mayo Clinic nurse claimed in mileage reimbursements before she was charged with felony theft by swindle

\$20 million

What Minneapolis will pay to settle a suit in the killing of Justine Ruszczyk Damond by Officer Mohamed Noor

"The name Lake Hitler represents absolutely nothing more than a beautiful lake."

Reader Nate Swenson responds to "A venture capitalist saves 'Lake Calhoun' from the 'bullying elites,'" at citypages.com.

HAMMERED IN ST. PAUL

MINNESOTA STATE REP. Matt Grossell (R-Clearbrook) is a retired deputy sheriff who likely doesn't miss the days of having to deal with people like Matt Grossell.

After a long week of work, he went on a bender at the Best Western bar near the Capitol, becoming so drunk and disorderly that he had to be escorted to his room. When St. Paul police checked in on him, they decreed him too hammered for his own safety, and took him to Regions Hospital.

But when he was released from Regions, he refused to leave, apparently believing it offered superior accommodations to the Best Western. The cops were forced to arrest him for trespassing and illegal affection for the comforts of a hospital bed.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

A Chilean mining company lays claim to **MINNESOTA'S WATER**

Roseau mom's **PROFANE VIDEO AGAINST SCHOOL** brings out the worst in internet

If you've had contact with **JEFFREY ELDRED**, Ramsey Co. detectives would like a word

The fast, furious life of **MPLS BIKE LOVE FOUNDER JEREMY WERST** ends at 43

St. Cloud **MODEL WEARS A HIJAB, BURKINI** in Sports Illustrated's swimsuit edition

BIKE VS. BUS

A cyclist lays waste to a school bus for parking in a bike lane

Researchers say the “happiest” commute is by bike, but we all have our bad days.

On Friday, a school bus stopped in the bike lane of Blaisdell Avenue in south Minneapolis. It was early in the morning, and the driver was waiting to pick up the first student of the day.

That’s when a cyclist pulled up, bike lock in hand, and began using it as a weapon on the bus windows. Even the windshield got smashed before the biker fled the scene, according to a police report.

The driver wasn’t injured, and there weren’t any students aboard. A police department spokesperson says there aren’t any updates on the case.

There’s no shortage of bad feelings between cyclists and drivers in the Twin Cities, but usually it’s the bikers taking the lion’s share of punishment. Just a

week and change before the bus incident, a cyclist got hit by a produce truck downtown on Third Avenue South near Second Street. He is expected to live, but not without a grueling recovery.

And not everyone is so lucky. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety says seven bikers died last year in crashes with motor vehicles. The year before, six died and 738 were injured.

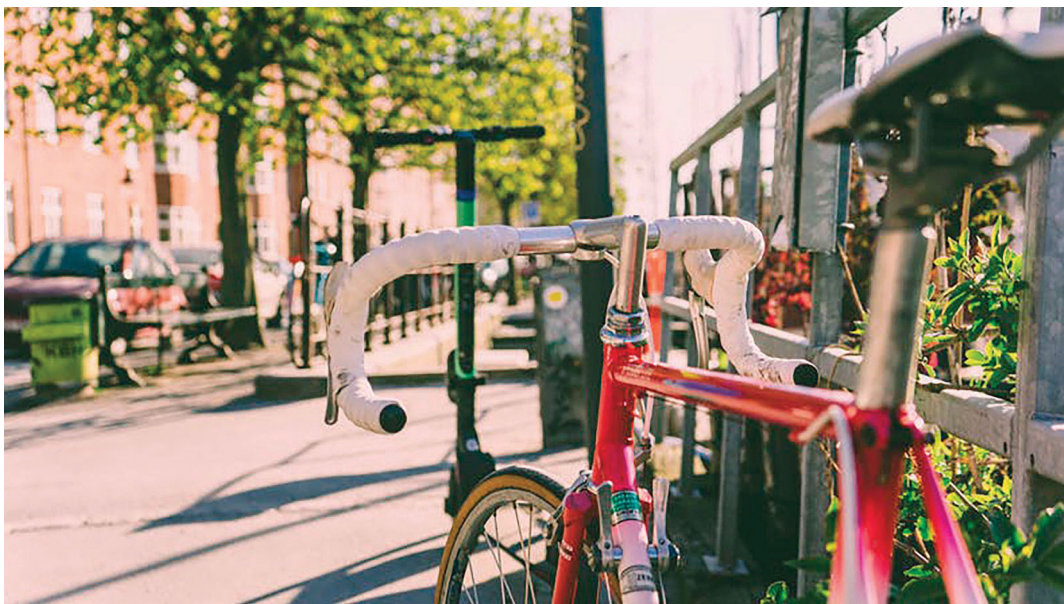
Of course, school buses aren’t exactly having an easy time of it, either. Earlier this year, 31-year-old security guard Kenneth W. Lilly opened fire on a bus

in Minneapolis, hitting the driver in the head and left arm.

He told police he feared for his safety after his car and the bus bumped into one another on I-35. He got out of his car, tried to get inside the bus, and, failing to do so, started firing through the windshield.

If there’s anything to be gleaned from all of this, it’s that it’s hard enough out there on the road without people making it harder on one another. So stay safe, buckle up, and watch out for cyclists.

Especially the ones wielding bike locks.
—HANNAH JONES



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UNDER *the Influence*

A new type of fame is emerging on social media. But what's it like to live with and love these mavens?

By **PATRICK STRAIT**

In the old days (like, 10 years ago), the most influential people in the world were actors, models, and musicians. These days, the biggest influencers of what we buy, where we vacation, and even how we give back don't have million-dollar movie deals or TV credits. Instead, they have iPhones and Insta-handles.

There are plenty of influencers here in the Twin Cities. In some cases, they're TV or radio personalities whose social media presence has become an extension of their on-air persona. For others, their business is all about creating connections between people, organizations, and good causes.

While some influencers might look glamorous in front of the camera (or iPhone) and have sweet, sweet validation from thousands of faceless social media handles, for many the most important person in their lives is the one taking the picture.

Behind the @ symbol is a very real person with feelings and opinions. And behind that person? Often there is a very patient partner. Husbands, wives, boyfriends, and, in some cases, children, have become recognizable, thanks to their influencer, whether they've been put into the filtered spotlight by choice, chance, or plain old accident.

TONY OPSE & SARAH EDWARDS

Tony Opse wasn't sure what was going on the first time he was recognized by a receptionist at doggie daycare.

"The girl just stared at me for a minute and then goes, 'Are you dating Sarah Edwards?'" he recalls. "So at first I was trying to remember if this was one of her friends I had met or something. Then she goes, 'I love her style! I'm really into fashion.' I wasn't really sure what I was supposed to do with that, so I just kind of smiled and thanked her. I don't know



Sarah Edwards and Tony Opse hang at her WeWork space in Uptown.

PHOTOS BY COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

why I thanked her, but it felt like the right thing to do."

While it may seem strange to corner a guy who is just trying to drop off his dog, this has become the norm for Opse. His girlfriend of roughly three and a half years

is Sarah Edwards, one of the most active and influential people on social media in the Twin Cities. Fashion, travel, and lavish social events are all staples of her Instagram, which is closely watched and engaged with by nearly 20,000 followers.

But for Sarah, it's (almost) all business.

Many know Edwards as the founder of "I AM" events around town, such as I AM MPLS and I AM ST. PAUL, annual parties that showcase local designers, artists, musicians, and more. By day, she

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PHOTOS BY COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

was working for an advertising agency downtown, using her creativity and promotional savvy to help people and brands stand out. About a year ago, she put her influence into action to go into business for herself. The result? Her own marketing agency called, appropriately, I Am Sarah Edwards. She has partnered with brands like Jaguar Land Rover MPLS and Canopy by Hilton Minneapolis, and can often be seen out and about at the latest launch party, networking event, or panel discussion.

"I hate the idea of being an 'influencer' because I'm a lot more than that," Edwards says at the mention of the word. "But social media is such an important part of my business, so I really can't be that upset about it."

On any given day, Edwards' posts are a rainbow of vintage outfits and lavish decorations for her latest client event. However, she also uses it to capture her own personal memories with Opse, from vacations to the occasional non-work-related night out.

"I think about how to divide between my personal life and professional life all the time," she says. "It's exhausting because sometimes I feel like I have to be this character, but then I also want to exist as a real person at the same time."

Fortunately for Edwards, Opse helps keep her grounded while still appreciating the incredible level of access she allows people as part of her business.

"I'm naturally an introvert myself," he says. "It takes a lot for me to get out and want to talk with people. When I'm at events with her it feels strange, because people will recognize me and want to talk, but it's pretty low-pressure. With Sarah,

she has to be constantly remembering people's names and what they do and how it affects her business. With me it's just like, 'Hey I'm Tony.'"

His laid-back attitude and willingness to include himself in Edwards' world makes Opse an excellent partner, both in life and in the influencer biz. But it's still a pain in both of their asses occasionally.

"I won't pretend I don't get annoyed with it sometimes," Opse says. "Like, we'll be somewhere and we have to stop what we're doing to make sure we get a photo. But I also know that it's important for her because that awareness can potentially segue into a new business opportunity."

Edwards is quick to demonstrate her own self-awareness of the kind of absurdity that comes with the territory.

"There are times that I'm like, 'I don't want to ask him to take a photo, but I have to, and now I don't respect myself!' But I also know that posting about certain things has allowed me to connect businesses, and in some cases help with really great causes. [Social media] can seem vapid or narcissistic—which it is—but I also try to balance it with the good it can do."

After getting on Instagram himself about six months ago, Opse says that more than anything he respects how hard his Instagram-famous girlfriend works and her motivations for doing it.

"I don't really think much about how often she's on social media because, honestly, it's like asking someone to cover up a third eye," he laughs. "It's part of her and what she does. I also understand that she is doing this for us and our future, and that means sometimes we both have to make sacrifices."

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More than anything, Opse is quick to point out that his girlfriend is a lot more than just an influencer.

"You can't just start an Instagram account and be an influencer," he says. "The social media was secondary to what Sarah was already doing. A lot of people get confused and want to be an influencer. You don't do that. You do the work and people will be interested in what you're doing. She's done such an amazing job of that."

MATTHEW HART & NORA MCINERNY

Local author, podcaster, nonprofit founder, and all-around badass chick Nora McInerny isn't interested in what she's "supposed" to do on social media.

"I didn't start using the internet to be an internet person," she explains when asked about her social media influence. "I never had a goal in mind. I just liked blogs and I was one of the first people on Tumblr, and then all of these crazy personal things happened and this following built up around it."

Intentional or not, McInerny's social media channels combine to over 110,000 followers, making her one of the biggest voices in the Twin Cities.

"I don't do anything to try and gain followers," she says. "I don't use hashtags unless it's something I made up myself, and my goal isn't to get people to follow me. I use [social media] to share my life in the way I want to."

Because of her less-than-impressed approach to social media engagement, it should come as little surprise that her kids and her husband, Matthew Hart, are unfazed by her internet status.

"The older two [Hart's 17-year-old and 12-year-old from a previous relationship] think it's the funniest thing to come up to me and be like, 'Are you Nora McInerny?' Like, it only happened one time but they won't let me forget it."

In Hart's case, his feelings about his wife's online life have gone mostly unchanged from their initial meeting. The first time he met McInerny had nothing to do with the internet at all.

"We had a mutual friend who introduced us at a bonfire at her house. I showed up, poured myself a glass of wine, and immediately tipped over in my chair. Nora laughed; probably harder than she should have. Like, she was definitely laughing at me."

That night, McInerny sent Hart a Facebook message, instructing him to ask her out on a proper date.

Unlike most of us, who turn into online detectives at the slightest hint of romantic connection, Hart chose to mostly stay away from her accounts.

"I scrolled through her Instagram a little bit, but definitely didn't go down a rabbit hole," he recalls. "Everyone presents what



KYLEE LEONETTI

they want on social media, and you're not going to get to know someone by scrolling. So we went out to eat to actually learn about each other."

Flash forward a few years and McInerny has released her second memoir, which includes plenty of stories about Hart, and her influence online steadily grows. While she continues to gain more fans because of her writing and her podcast, she hasn't toned down who she is for the sake of gaining followers.

"I don't have a brand I'm associated with," she says when presented with the ugly B-word. "I have never thought that way. I can tell you that I've always been a very liberal person. I can tell you that I've rubbed a lot of white ladies in Minnesota the wrong way for calling out racist shit. I'm not for everyone."

Meanwhile, Hart continues to be the more reserved and introverted of the two, though that's not to say he doesn't feel the pressures of his peripheral fame.

"There have been a few times where people will DM her about seeing me somewhere," he recalls. "Understanding that people around Minnesota know who I am is a little weird too. It kind of makes me feel a little pressure to be a good representative of who she is, although in general I'd say the chances of me doing stupid shit is relatively low."

Hart understands the role that social media plays in her career and her life. He

Nora McInerny and Matthew Hart's kids remain unimpressed.

also has no problem supporting her from the background.

"My version of helping is getting out of her way," he laughs. "She just did an event at the Parkway Theater and we showed up late, so I just hung out and kept the baby entertained most of the time. She's busy talking to people and signing books, so I step back and do what I can to support her outside of that part. She doesn't need any help from me."

That said, Hart's experience watching the weird, sometimes toxic online cloud that can follow McInerny has given him a new appreciation for social media, or lack thereof.

"The sense of ownership that some people think they have over her just because they follow her online is fucking crazy to me," he says. "It's this righteousness, like they think they have a say in what she does sometimes. It's kind of like, 'Hey, this is my life and my content isn't about aligning with your values.' It's just really bizarre."

His outlook may seem obvious to an outside observer, but as anyone who has been inundated with social media dickheads can tell you, it's easy to lose sight of that when you're in it. This is something that doesn't go unnoticed by McInerny.



COURTESY OF THE COUPLE

“Matthew is a good reminder for me that the little dopamine rush I used to get from social media is not as wonderful as having a real place to land,” she says. “It used to be that if someone was shitty to me online, it would take me out of my fucking mind. Healthy people don’t shit on other people on the internet. And I can say that because I’ve been a shitty person who shit on people. Matthew is just so present and doesn’t need the internet to try and fill a hole in his spirit.”

Hart has an equally supportive outlook on McInerney’s internet life.

“This is going to sound corny but I realized early on that I was falling in love with this person, and that this was just part of the territory. This was going to be my person, and all these weird things are just going to come with it. I’m comfortable with that.”

He takes a brief pause, then adds, “But when people do come up to me all excited and ask, ‘Are you Nora’s husband?’ I just want to tell them, this is going to be a very disappointing conversation.”

ALYSSA & JASON DERUSHA

Believe it or not, people dated before apps were invented. But that doesn’t mean the internet didn’t still play a role. In the case of Alyssa and Jason DeRusha, they met back in 1995 at Marquette University,

Alyssa DeRusha, wife of Jason DeRusha, has found her own fame as a fashionista.

where Jason used a super primitive version of AOL Instant Messenger to ask Alyssa if she’d like to go to a church polka fest in Milwaukee.

Shockingly, that line worked, and the two are now happily married with two children, successful careers, and a very impressive social media footprint. In fact, Jason currently has more than 50,000 followers on Twitter (@DeRushaJ), which he uses to break news and give non-famous folk a look into his personal life. That’s where his wife starts to get annoyed.

“I don’t love it when he announces to 50,000 people that we’re going to Arizona next week,” she says, laughing. “Or when he puts up photos of the front of our house with the house number still on there. He just doesn’t really think of that stuff in advance.”

Small grievances aside, Alyssa knows that connecting with people is part of what makes her husband so great at his job as a WCCO-TV reporter. Not to mention it is just part of who he is.

“Jason has always been an open book,” she says. “He shares more than I’d be comfortable sharing, but he’s always been one to just put it all out there.”

While Jason is known for his combination of wit and empathy when sharing his

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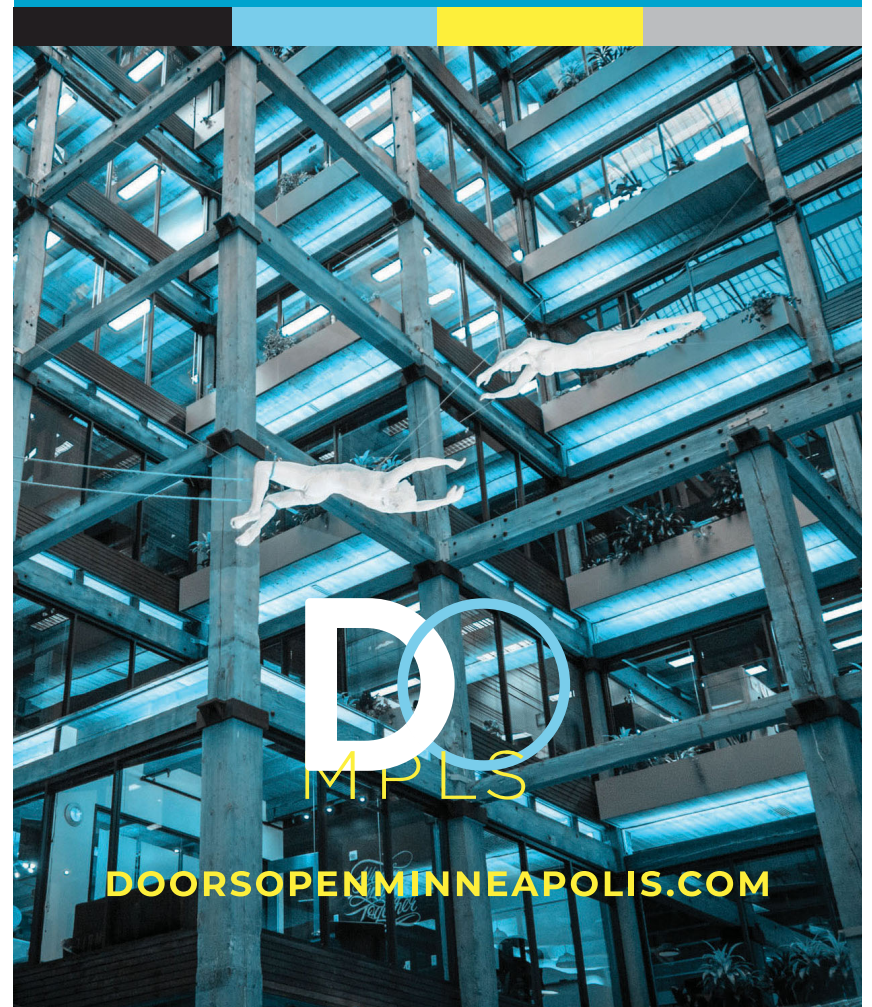
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DAVE PUENTE

thoughts, he says that his eye for finding content can occasionally take over.

"I realize that part of my job is social media," he says. "But I think sometimes I find myself seeing the world in terms of possible material: What would make a great Instagram post or what would be a great tweet? Alyssa has seen me trying to craft a tweet or make a joke just right."

Without missing a beat, Alyssa brings Jason down a few notches.

"I make jokes that you tweet as your own," she shares.

Over the course of his career, Jason has received plenty of attention from fans at events as well as in his day-to-day life. But that notoriety is something that has become new to Alyssa in the past few years.

"It happens semi-frequently now where people will recognize me and know my name," she says. "The weirdest is that people will come up to me when he's not there and say that they recognize me."

While some would possibly run from the attention, Alyssa has managed to use it to launch her own social media presence as a local fashion maven. About four years ago, she started her own fashion-focused Instagram (@alyssastyled), which has given her an online identity all her own.

"Jason was getting asked to host or be a part of more and more events and restaurant openings and things like that, and so I'd come with him," she recalls. "I've always liked fashion and getting dressed up, and one of Jason's old co-workers told me I should start my own fashion blog. I didn't think anything of it at first, but then I decided I liked the idea of having a creative outlet to showcase that side of me."

Soon, Alyssa was showing off her best looks, from her Starkey Gala ensemble to her relaxed outfit at a summer concert. And she had a very familiar photographer at her disposal.

Jake Gotler and Falen Bonsett found love on social media, too.

"I am 100 percent her photographer," says Jason, beaming. "I love it when someone comes up to her and says they love her fashion Instagram. People laugh, because we'll be at events and they see me off to the side taking pictures of Alyssa. Sometimes we'll forget to get a picture while we're out, so we'll pull over and get one on the way home."

Alyssa adds, "We stopped at a Menards one time. We realized we hadn't taken a picture, so Jason pulled over and took my picture in the parking lot."

Her presence online has continued to grow and, in some cases, her own notoriety has managed to eclipse that of her husband.

"Some magazine ran a picture of Jason and me from a charity event we went to," Alyssa recalls. "And the caption used my maiden name: Jason and Alyssa Bannochie."

It's clear that despite her budding modeling and fashion influencer career, Alyssa is still more comfortable playing the support role to her husband. But that doesn't stop Jason from gushing about her like she's the star of the show.

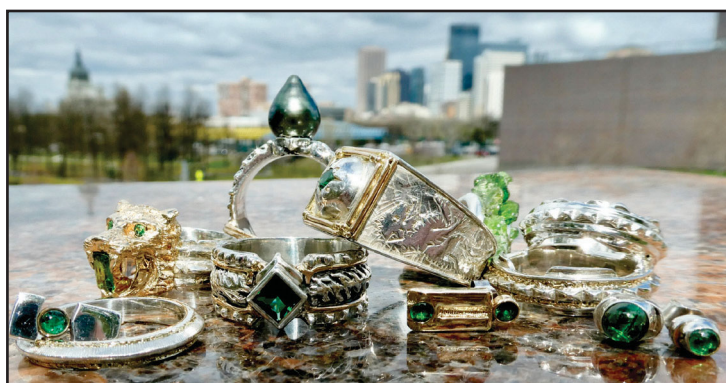
"I have spent my career getting attention because I'm on TV," he explains. "I love having Alyssa step out and having me take her picture. I'm so proud of her for doing it."

JAKE GOTLER & FALAN BONSETT

Unlike some influencers' partners who weren't all that familiar with their significant other's web fame prior to getting together, Jake Gotler knew exactly who he was matching with when he came across Falen Bonsett of KDWB fame on Bumble.



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"I saw her profile and showed my sister her picture," he recalls. "I was like, 'Isn't that the girl from the radio? Should I match with her?' She goes, 'No way she'll match with you.' But she was wrong, and here we are."

Despite being familiar with Bonsett's radio personality, Gotler still did the social media deep-dive once the two began talking.

"I definitely went and creeped her Instagram," he laughs. "My initial impressions were that she was super cute, her Bumble photos were up to date, and that she had some really interesting, funny, cool hobbies."

On the other side of the swipe, Bonsett was dealing with her own nervousness with online dating.

"It felt weird to put myself out there," she says. "I didn't want anyone using me for Pitbull tickets or something."

After matching with Gotler, she admits to doing the same level of social media snooping. Except her search was far less fruitful.

"Of course I stalked his social media," she says. "I think when you first start dating anyone you want

to find out about who they used to date and how you compare. The problem was I couldn't really find a lot on him."

A guy with a limited virtual presence was a stark contrast to her own, with more than 120,000 social media followers. But even once the relationship became social-media official, Gotler insists he didn't have any concerns about being thrust into the frame.

"It was funny because people would come up to her when we were out and say hello, which I thought was sort of unusual, but I got used to it pretty quickly. The weirdest thing was when people started to know me."

As any KDWB morning show listener can attest, Bonsett is an open book. That translates both on-air and online.

"I probably feel some pressure to let people into my private life," she admits. "I made that conscious decision a long time ago. How can people relate to me if I'm a surface person? If they listened to me and heard me being honest to a fault, and then saw this perfectly cultivated Instagram, they'd be disappointed."

But in the case of maintaining a relationship, being authentic can come with risks, which both Gotler and Bonsett recognized going in.

"I know in her case, she was much more cognizant of putting something up online about us," Gotler says. "Because if some-

thing goes wrong, you don't want to have to explain it to 50,000 people."

Bonsett seconds this. "I've come to accept that people are going to say mean things to me on the internet, but I don't want people being mean to him."

As fans already know, the couple decided that the reward was worth the risk, and they were married this past September. While Gotler knew that this meant being a part of Bonsett's life forever, he didn't realize that it also meant being a part of other people's lives.

"It's funny because now we'll be at the State Fair or something and instead of just asking him to take our picture, people want him to get in the picture with us," Bonsett laughs.

For his part, Gotler is happy to play the part alongside his wife.

"When her fans come up to me I try to always be polite and positive," he says. "People will occasionally approach me when we're at radio events or appearances for her, but it is sort of weird that they're interested in taking pictures or meeting me just because I'm mar-

ried to her."

Bonsett admits that she has put her husband to work on occasion.

"Of course I've made him take pictures of me looking off into the distance," she confesses. "I have the dream of having one of those super cute Instagram photos. But he's terrible at it so that dream will never come true with him."

Dream photo shoots aside, Gotler says he is always happy to lend a hand, regardless of what side of the camera he's on.

"If we're out somewhere and people want a picture, I'll always help out," he says. "We also started our own food page together and made a YouTube show, *Festivals, Fairs and Food Trucks*."

While a couple having a shared social media account or YouTube channel can potentially be nauseating, Gotler and Bonsett have managed to use her status to bring them closer together and make them into an influencer couple.

Whether they turn out to be the king and queen of the Twin Cities social media scene or just continue taking way too many photos of their dogs, Gotler embraces his wife's work as an influencer.

"I'm proud of her more than anything else," he beams. "She's built up a following and has a fanbase, and she deserves it. Her social media is a really accurate representation of who she is, which is the same funny, cool, cute girl I fell in love with." **CF**

"I don't really think much about how often she's on social media, because, honestly, it's like asking someone to cover up a third eye."

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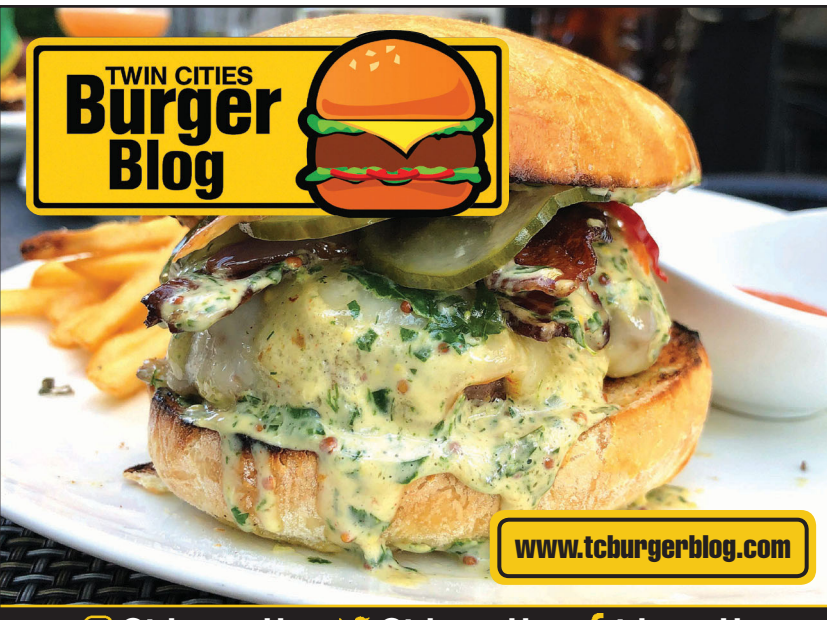
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BY LAUREN HAUN

The front door of Modern Times is bulging with people wrapped in late-winter jackets, a human mass that eventually unfurls outside. It's a crowd dressed for Saturday night, the room dotted with smooth leather jackets and printed sweaters, earrings wobbling on lobes.

Soft sounds from a stereo in the kitchen set a mellow tone, and the room fills with conversation. The wait is a gentle process. People greet neighbors and friends, and from the kitchen emerges a beaming woman in a bright-yellow dress, who walks toward the line bearing a tray with bites of cake and cups of sorrel—a red hibiscus drink, sweet and bright, which I sip as the kids behind me in line enjoy bits of banana cake.

This is Ingridients—a Trinidad-inspired, soul-rooted pop-up enriched by chef Ingrid Richards' nostalgic cravings and beloved flavors.

Richards has been a Minneapolis resident for over 30 years, after moving here from her island home of Trinidad. The eldest of nine children, she learned to cook for her family when she was young, standing on a stool next to her grandmother's stove. Hers was a family of culinary brilliance: "My aunt was a master chef; she would make incredible ice creams with tropical fruits. She just had enormous skill," she recalls. Her grandfather was an expert gardener and herbalist.

When she arrived in Minnesota in 1980, she took culinary classes at Minneapolis Technical Institute and began working in professional kitchens, always dreaming of one day opening her own restaurant. The first time she cooked her own food for the public was at the request of her daughter, the respected artist and author Junauda Petrus (and the host in yellow at the pop-up). She wanted to serve food as part of a performance piece at Pillsbury House in 2015 and reached out to her mother to make doubles, a Trinidadian street food of flat fried bread filled with curried chickpeas.

"We ran out of food because people kept taking two portions; they'd have one and go back for another!" Richards remembers. That same year, the Whittier Farmers Market—which was just starting up—asked Richards if she wanted to cook.

For the first market, she made doubles and Bailey's Irish Cream cupcakes with fresh berries, quickly selling out. Each week, she made more food, and every time, she'd sell out. She's been operating at the

SPECIAL INGRIDIENTS

A Trinidadian pop-up infused with love and enriched with nostalgia



ALMA GUZMAN

market every week since. Then, late last year, Modern Times owner Dylan Alverson offered to house her pop-up two Saturdays a month during March, April, and May.

The response has been overwhelming, with lines out the door of the south Minneapolis restaurant each night. "People have been really excited about being in the space at night and eating some really amazing food," says Alverson. "Sharing this space with their family at an exciting time in their growth is very rewarding."

And it really is exciting. Back in line, I finally reach the counter and place a to-go order for a Caribbean entree, doubles, and a ginger beer, rushing them home in a blink. When I crack the container, a deep coo leaves my lips. The stewed chicken is nestled next to a spoonful of macaroni pie and a pool of red beans, slices of fried plantains tucked on the side. The beans are slightly sweet and practically melted with their own richness; the macaroni pie is masterful, with pert noodles held in a rich

cheese sauce. I use forkfuls of the pasta to mop up the beans, an absolute luxury.

The stewed chicken has been cooked until smooth, the sauce richly spiced. It quickly disappears. The plantains, incredibly savory nuggets, were slightly smashed while fried.

Richards has a level of quality to her food that's recognizable to anyone who loves to cook. "If you saw the way she cupped the chicken and drizzled the gravy on each plate, she is very thoughtful," says Petrus. "If things that she has cooked aren't up to her standards, she won't let them go out." She holds close the Trinidadian flavors of her childhood while expanding her repertoire, consistently including vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options in her rotating menu. And nearly all the ingredients that inform her cooking are local and organic: "I don't want to be poisoning my community," she says. "The main ingredient is love. I want my food to be nourishing, and don't

want to use the cheapest ingredient just to make a profit."

The doubles are a beloved Caribbean dish: soft bara bread filled with a lentil and chickpea mixture, with a sweet tamarind sauce sloshed on top. The flavors are rooted in India, from the indentured servants brought to the islands during colonial rule. The bread tastes of cumin and coriander, and the dueling textures from the soft lentils and chewy chickpeas meld well. It tastes somehow familiar despite my lack of Caribbean heritage, the lentils providing a sloppy-joe texture and the tamarind sauce similar to ketchup's sweetness. A kitchen-table familiarity, with more complex flavors.

And the ginger beer deserves its own paragraph. As a ginger fanatic who eats raw slices of the stuff to cure everything from upset stomach to melancholy, I'm frequently disappointed by ginger beers and sodas, which are often heavy with sugar syrup and lack even a scant bite of ginger heat. Ingridients' ginger beer is a kick in the pants; I'd like to dive into a swimming pool full of it and drink every drop.

As I wait at the counter, I joke with the woman beside me that the food must be good if the lines are long and no one is mad about waiting. "It's about support," she responds. "Showing up for your community." Richards and her family put their whole heart into creating a warm space for everyone who walks through the door, and it shows in the packed dining rooms and relaxed customers.

Richards recently quit her full time job to focus all of her energy on running Ingridients, and will continue popping up at the Whittier Farmers Market this year while offering catering (meaning that ginger beer can be bought by the gallon).

"I believe in what my mom does as a chef," says Petrus, but she also noted that the reality of Minneapolis gentrification affects their ability to plan for the future. The shortage of African-American-owned businesses on the South Side, though the community's roots in the area are deep, make the realities of being able to start a brick-and-mortar restaurant daunting.

Regardless of the challenges, Richards continues working toward the dream she's maintained for 30 years. "I've always had another job, and now this is what I am doing. I am excited to give it my all."

Ingridients will be at Modern Times on May 18 from 8 to 10 p.m., and at the Whittier Farmers Market on Saturdays from June 22 to August 24. [@](#)

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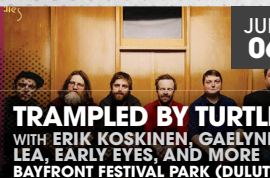
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AUG 17

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MAY 11



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MAY 17



GO SHOW WITH I DON'T KNOW HOW BUT THEY FOUND ME

MAY 18



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MAY 10



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MAY 09



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MAY 11



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MAY 12



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MAY 13



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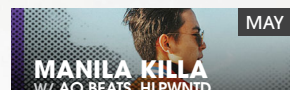
ALLMAN BROWN
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MAY 15



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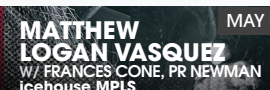
MAY 12



MANILA KILLA
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MAY 16

AROUND TOWN



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MAY 09



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MAY 12



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JUNE 07



LOVETT OR LEAVE IT
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JUNE 07



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JUNE 14

A LIST

SATURDAY Bad Weather Brewing sets up an outdoor arcade party p. 21

SUNDAY Quirky finds from local makers at Unique Markets' spring pop-up p. 25

Autonomy brings cars, theater, and climate change together for a wild ride at the RiverCentre.



RICH RYAN

THURSDAY 5.9

THEATER AUTONOMY

SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE

The latest production from Mixed Blood Theatre, *Autonomy*, sets a new standard for audacity. Eschewing the traditional staging model, this new work from playwright Ken LaZebnik places participants into small groups, gives them earbuds, and ushers them onto the floor of the Saint Paul RiverCentre for a 90-minute expedition to the year 2022. The story: Amid revolutionary

social changes wrought by self-driving cars, a teenage “technonerd” is on the run from nefarious corporate forces bent on establishing a new world order. Fueling dramatic tension with heart-racing action, this multimedia presentation imaginatively blends live performance, video projection, choreographed lighting, and original music. The most fascinating feature, however, will undoubtedly be the collection of some 54 vehicles, each exemplifying an evolution in automotive design and performance. Audiences will encounter classic Corvettes, stylish BMWs, a misbegotten DeLorean, a rare

Amphicar, and iconic vehicles like the Scooby Doo Mystery Machine and a Batmobile. Raising urgent questions of environmental responsibility and individual liberty, director Jack Reuler brings *Autonomy* revving to life with a 19-member ensemble consisting of such Mixed Blood alumni as Ansa Akyea, Harry Waters Jr., Malachi Caballero, Raul Ramos, Taj Ruler, Randy Reyes, and Michael Laskin. Find tickets at www.mixedblood.com. 6:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday; 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$38. 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-265-4800. **Through Sunday —BRAD RICHASON**

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JOHN HEFFRON

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Onstage, comedian John Heffron likes to talk about what's going on in his life, particularly his marriage. He's certainly not shy about offering relationship advice to young people in the audience, but there's always a big dose of humor. “I joke about marriage because it'd be really boring on stage if I went on and said, ‘I love marriage. My marriage is awesome.’ See how that's not funny at all?” His wife, meanwhile, takes it all in stride. Her only occasional criticisms are of his actual performances. “It's never about the jokes. She'll bust me if she thinks I'm phoning it in. I get that more often than, ‘Don't talk about that!’” 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

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PHOENIX THEATER

The sixth edition of 20% Theatre Company's Q-Stage: New Works Series is here. The performance festival showcases artists working in a variety of forms—such as soundplay, visual pieces, and storytelling—as they draw on their queer experiences and identities. This installment features four experimental performances created by local queer artists. The first weekend includes Taylor Seaberg's loosely autobiographical audio/visual play “Weirdo_Indigo_Child,” and “Displacements and Diaries,” an immersive work of prose, film, live vocal composition, and theater by Dua Saleh. Next week features Keila Anali Saucedo's “Brujeria for Beginners,” which explores the complexities of spirituality, and D. Allen's “Net/work,” which simulates and shares the poet's experiences with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. \$5-\$25 sliding scale. 2605 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-377-2285. **Through May 18 —SHEILA REGAN**

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07/22 3TEETH W/ AUTHOR & PUNISHER + GHOST	10/25 SABATON W/ HAMMERFALL

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FRIDAY 5.10

DRAG

ALASKA 5000

THE POURHOUSE

The Golden Girls Bar Crawl is tomorrow. But first, Alaska 5000 (aka Alaska Thunderfuck) will pay tribute to the four fine ladies and toast to the twilight years. Along with her friend Jeremy Keller, she'll pay tribute to enduring friendship, living life to its fullest, and senior citizens. Expect some parody skits and some musical interludes (including the theme song, "Thank You for Being a Friend," and "What'll I Do?," a little ditty sung by Bea Arthur on the show). Find tickets at www.eventbrite.com. The early show is all ages, and the later one is 21+. 7 to 10 p.m. \$35; \$65 VIP. 10 Fifth St. S., Minneapolis; 612-843-2555. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BARHOPPING

BAD WEATHER OUTDOOR ARCADE

BAD WEATHER BREWING COMPANY

One weekend each year, Bad Weather Brewing kicks the cars out of its parking lot for something far more important: old arcade cabinets and pinball machines. Enjoy full-on gaming action in the sun, with tents providing protection from a gamer's true nemesis: glare. Expect to find classic arcade games; last year's collection featured Donkey Kong, Tetris, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and a Pac-Man Battle Royale 4-Player. You can also play pinball machines, skeeball, ping pong, and cornhole. Pajarito and Parlour Bar

will set up pop-up restaurants, and food trucks Habanero Tacos, Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub, and MN Nice Cream will stop by. Special beer releases this weekend include the return of hazy IPA Fog of War and Golden Bramble, a pineapple wheat beer. For just \$5, you get unlimited access to all the games. Plan ahead for travel, though, as parking will be limited. All ages. 3 p.m. to midnight Friday; noon to midnight Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. Free; \$5 for unlimited gameplay. 414 W. Seventh St., St. Paul; 651-207-6627.

Through Sunday —LOREN GREEN

DANCE

BLACK LABEL MOVEMENT: TEAMWORK 2.0

RITZ THEATER

Choreographer Carl Flink creates dances with blunt physicality and provocative themes that are complexly layered. His fearless company, Black Label Movement, explodes into space with a combo of unfettered physicality and meticulous control. This year's spring fling, Teamwork 2.0, features the premiere of Flink's newest work, "Morituri te Salutant" (Latin for "we who are about to die salute you," the declaration gladiators made in ancient Rome before their battles began). The layers of design—movement, original sound, absurdist costumes, live animation—combine to create a shattering world in which the BLM movers seek survival and humanity in the face of mounting desensitization. Also on the program are Flink's poignant and resonant

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 ►



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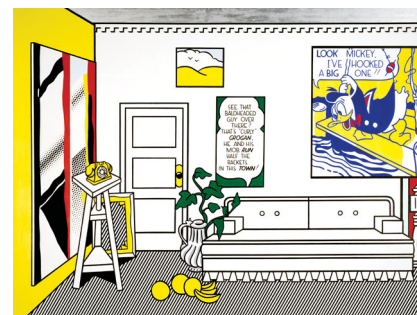
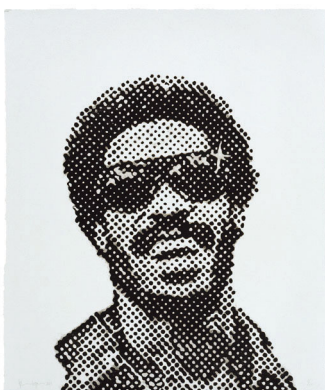
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Get lost
with us...

clockwise (from top left): Cindy Sherman, *Untitled #403*, 2000, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 2001; Courtesy the artist and Metro Pictures, New York; Sherrie Levine, *Fountain* (after Marcel Duchamp), A.P., 1991, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 1992; Nelson Leirner, *Untitled*, 1969, Gift of the Walker Foundation, 1990; Piet Mondrian, *Untitled*, 1930, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 1992; Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, 1917, Gift of the Walker Foundation, 1992; Roy Lichtenstein, *Untitled*, 1965, Gift of the Walker Foundation, 1992; Edward Hopper, *Office at Night*, 1940, Gift of the T. B. Walker Foundation, Gilbert M. Walker Fund, 1948; Marge and Irv Weiser, *Untitled*, 1969, Gift of the Walker Foundation, 1992.

Early-bird specials and friendship abound at the Golden Girls Bar Crawl.



DARIN KAMNETZ

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

“This Bleeding Heart” and “Canary,” which he describes “as a surrealistic vision of a prom night at the bottom of a coal mine.” Find tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 4 p.m. Sunday. \$20; \$10 students. 345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612- 436-1129.

Through Sunday —LINDA SHAPIRO

SATURDAY 5.11

BOOKS/FESTIVAL

WORDPLAY FESTIVAL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The Loft Literary Center is throwing the Coachella of book festivals. The three-day event kicks off with a concert Friday night at First Avenue featuring the Rock Bottom Remainers, a band composed of some of the festival’s highest-profile guests (Stephen King! Amy Tan! Dave Barry! Our own Marlon James!). The weekend will feature interviews, readings, and a variety of special events at several locations, including the Guthrie and Open Book. Many of the ticketed special events are sold out, but the bulk of the festival takes place on outdoor stages in St. Paul, and wristbands are a mere \$10. Many of the biggest names will appear on the main stages, including the aforementioned Remainers along with Mary Karr, Julie Schumacher, Tommy Orange, and many more. For details on tickets and the full schedule, go to loftwordplay.com. Event prices range from free to \$10-\$40. **Through Sunday —BRYAN MILLER**

BARHOPPING

GOLDEN GIRLS BAR CRAWL

THE POURHOUSE

Back in the ’80s, a television program following four women who were just trying to figure things out became a hit. The show starred Blanche, who was always up for sexy fun; ditzy and kind Rose; take-no-shit Dorothy; and master of one-liners Sophia. Oh yeah, and all of these women were senior citizens. Thirty-five years later, *The Golden Girls* endures. This Saturday, the Flip Phone crew will honor these four iconic women in the best way they know how: with a bar crawl. Folks will dress up as their favorite character and convene at the Pourhouse. There, the crowd will once again go for a Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of Golden Girls. Then the masses will break up into four different groups, making their way to bars including Mercy, the Saloon, Union, and Seven. At each stop there will be a variety of fun performances, activities, and drink specials. Ten percent of all bar sales from this event will benefit OutFront Minnesota. Find tickets at www.eventbrite.com. 21+. 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$20; \$40 with event T-shirt. 10 S. Fifth St. #11, Minneapolis; 612-843-2555. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART

SPRING CRAFT’ZA

GRAIN BELT BOTTLING HOUSE

Folks searching for a really cool last-minute Mother’s Day gift need look no further, as you’ll find plenty of potential

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ►

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A-LIST



Siena Forest is wonder
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MIKE MADDISON

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

gifts at the spring installment of Craft'za. The event, held in the massive Grain Belt Bottling House, will feature over 60 vendors selling a variety of items. Mom may appreciate the hand-painted wood earrings of Burly Babe, the candy-colored pottery of Dad and Kiddo, or oh yay's stash of planters, complete with tiny wooden signs proclaiming love for mom. There's plenty to investigate for yourself, too. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. 79 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TALKS

IRA GLASS: SEVEN THINGS I'VE LEARNED

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

Ira Glass' most recent live talk series, *Seven Things I've Learned*, has a simple origin. "What's different about this [talk] is that it's just really an excuse to tell seven interesting stories that are fun to tell an audience, along with video and audio that I share," says the host of *This American Life*. The seven stories have changed since he first began touring with this presentation. Some are derived from his popular radio show, while some he's found through other means. An accomplished journalist and broadcaster, Glass has come to really enjoy performing live. "It's nice to be in front of people," he says. "It's very different than being on the radio. When I'm talking on the radio, I'm in a soundproof room, and in a theoretical way I am talking to people, but it's a little bit abstract. But to be in an actual

room with people... when there's something funny they laugh, and it's just a much more enjoyable experience." 8 p.m. \$24-\$53.50. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —P.F. WILSON

OPERA

OUT OF THE BOX OPERA

PILLSBURY ARTIST LOFTS

Audiences are part of the action in Out of the Box Opera's new production, *The Amazing Adventures of Acis and Galatea, the Wonder Nymph*. This immersive reconception of George Handel's 1718 opera, *Acis and Galatea*, which in turn is based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, takes place in four different locations in and around the Pillsbury Artist Lofts. Stops includes the hydro power tunnels underneath the building and the rooftop, which features view of Minneapolis' skyline. The opera, directed by David Lefkovich with musical direction by Lara Bolton, draws on comic books for inspiration. There's also a good dose of Greek mythology here, with cyclops battles, epic love, and vocal fireworks. Soprano Siena Forest stars in the production. You may remember her from Out of the Box's *Diva Cage Match*, where singers squared off inside a boxing ring. She's joined by tenor David Walton and Andrew Witzkowski as the cyclops. Five ensemble singers make up the Greek chorus. Find tickets at and more info at BrownPaperTickets.com. 5, 7, and 9 p.m. \$60; \$75 VIP. 315 Main Street NE, Minneapolis; 612-963-5660. —SHEILA REGAN

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ►

TO LET GO AND FALL

WORLD
PREMIERE

Tyler Michaels King, JuCoby Johnson, André Shoals,
Mark Benninghofen, Photo by Allen Weeks

Todd and Arthur are two former ballet dancers who reunite at New York's Lincoln Center Plaza having not seen each other for more than 25 years. This beautifully-told story takes us through the lives of both men, their choices, regrets, and coming to terms with age, illness and sexual identity.

TO LET GO AND FALL

WRITTEN BY HARRISON DAVID RIVERS
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JELLOSLAVE CELLISTS
JACQUELINE ULTAN AND MICHELLE KINNEY

DIRECTED BY SHERRI EDEN BARBER
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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

BARHOPPING/BOOKS

LIT CRAWL 2019

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This weekend, Wordplay Festival takes over the Twin Cities with a variety of happenings. One easy entry point into the myriad of events is Saturday's Lit Crawl, an event filled with beer, books, and games. Highlights include Autoptic's Spring Showcase at Morrissey's Irish Pub, where zine and comic creators will share new works; Bryant-Lake Bowl hosting book-themed games, such as Literary Death Match and Nerd Jeopardy; and wild storytelling from Word Sprout at Red Stag. Other venues include Highpoint Center for Printmaking and Zoe's Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



COURTESY OF UNIQUE POP-UP

SUNDAY 5.12

ARTS

UNIQUE MARKETS' SPRING POP-UP

MACHINE SHOP

This Sunday, Unique Markets invites local businesses and emerging makers to set up shop and showcase their wares at this pop-up party. Around 40 vendors will be on hand, sharing items that include visual art, home goods, beauty and wellness products, and food. That includes skull-embossed leather wallets from Howl + Hide, wood-frame glasses from Lifted Optics, baby blankets featuring awesome women (Dolly Parton! Malala Yousafzai! Laverne Cox!) by Abbey's House, and chocolate bars packed with things like local honey, rose petals, and lavender. The \$5 admission scores you a cloth tote bag, plus access to DIY sessions and drink stations. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5. 300 Second St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-940-9647. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



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FILM

CAN 'LONG SHOT' HAVE IT ALL?

Non-dysfunctional politics feel like more of a fantasy than true love in this Charlize Theron/Seth Rogen romcom



PHILLIPE BOSSÉ

BY KEITH HARRIS

The nice thing about reviewing a romantic comedy is there's no way I can spoil the ending. If you are genuinely shocked to learn that blindingly gorgeous Secretary of State/presidential hopeful Charlotte Field (Charlize Theron) and sloppy, underachieving Brooklyn muckraker Fred Flarsky (Seth Rogen) find true love by the conclusion of *Long Shot*—well, you had to lose your innocence sometime, pal. I'm just sorry it had to be like this.

Still, *Long Shot* isn't exactly what you'd expect—at the very least, it does an end run around the ickier elements of the schlublands-the-hottie template. Flarsky may be the movie's focal point, but Field's decisions drive the story, so it's less “boy meets/loses/gets girl” than “girl falls for boy against her better judgment and tries to wedge him into her complicated life.”

Long Shot begins with Flarsky, fresh from the successful infiltration of a neo-Nazi den, quitting his job in an absurdly principled huff after an evil media conglomerate gobbles up his publication; to cheer him up, his buddy Lance (O'Shea Jackson Jr., emitting relentlessly aggro positivity) takes him to a benefit gala that, for some reason, the secretary of state is also attending. (Dammit, disbelief, will you suspend already?) Field, it turns

out, was once Flarsky's babysitter and first crush. To the dismay of her supercilious handlers, she hires Flarsky to punch up her speeches during a global jaunt to nail down an ambitious environmental accord. He excels, of course, because he understands the real her or whatever; and soon her speeches aren't all he's punching up, if you know what I mean.

Along the way there are pratfalls, face plants, funny outfits, an inopportune teen boner, a white supremacist named Aryan Grande, and a bona fide cum shot. All this, I need hardly say, is the good stuff. But when I tell you that *Long Shot*'s political milieu is a colossally dimwitted creation, please understand that I mean even for a romcom—even for a romcom where Charlize Theron is the secretary of state and falls in love with Seth Rogen. The movie's world is neither make-believe nor realistic enough. One extended scene badgers us into agreeing that Republicans are people too, while the bumbling baddies—white nationalists, Bob Odenkirk's TV-star-turned president, a handsy Murdochian mogul played by Andy Serkis (who somehow seems digitally enhanced even when he isn't CGI)—keep reminding us of their less easily foiled real-world counterparts.

Rogen updates his stunted adolescent persona a smidge here, integrating an

LONG SHOT

directed by Jonathan Levine
area theaters, now playing

unwillingness to compromise his ideals that honestly makes him seem just as immature as the cheap windbreaker he's zipped into as snugly as a plump, fuzzy sausage. (He's like Glenn Greenwald with a neckbeard and a weed dealer.) But Theron is the movie's heart. She's game for even the crassest gags, yet she establishes Field as a three-dimensional human, a woman who knows how to get what she wants, and—once that inexplicably includes Flarsky—adjusts her m.o., not smoothly but effectively.

In the end, it's not only true love but political candor that conquers all in *Long Shot*, and America lives as happily ever after as the new first couple, who appear to have redefined the nation's gender roles forever. Not only can Field have it all, but so can we. It's a surprisingly sweet conclusion, yet seeing that fantasy play out while living in the ugly actuality of 2019, where the misogynists and power brokers are more than standing their ground, is like watching a standard romantic comedy while you're in the middle of a messy divorce.

Sometimes a happy ending can feel just plain cruel. **C+**

HEREDITARY HAUNTINGS

There are many different kinds of ghosts in *The Brothers Paranormal*



ALLEN WEEKS

BY JAY GABLER

In a sense, *The Brothers Paranormal* is a fitting play for springtime: It touches on themes of hope, renewal, and change. However, it also happens to be a ghost story with the kind of jarring surprises that usually only come out at Halloween.

The play's regional premiere is now onstage at Penumbra Theatre, in a first-ever co-production between that company and Theater Mu. Writer Prince Gomolvilas imagines an intersection between a Thai-American family and an African-American couple; unusual circumstances highlight parallels between their experiences of dislocation.

The story, which balances levity and tragedy, opens on a lighter note. Brothers Max (Sherwin Resurreccion) and Visarut (Kurt Kwan) finally have a client for their fledgling paranormal investigation business, which salesman Max thinks is essentially a sham. He gleefully swipes a credit card belonging to Delia (Regina Marie Williams), who's been hearing a ghost... one that quite unexpectedly speaks Thai.

Delia's husband, Felix (James Craven), is entertaining a few different theories

as to why a black American woman would be haunted by a Thai ghost, but one he's hoping isn't true is that Delia is experiencing the kind of hallucinations her mother had due to mental illness. Max says the brothers' mother (Leslie Ishii), who immigrated from Thailand, has had a similar diagnosis, and the amateur ghostbusting starts to take on new dimensions.

That's only the starting point of a story that keeps twisting and turning all the way to the end. There's an apparition, all right (in the person of a nimble and ferocious Michelle de Joya), but not everyone sees her and Gomolvilas keeps us guessing as to her true nature. Director Lou Bellamy keeps the energy crackling for the scary scenes, with the help of some hair-raising stagecraft.

Fundamentally, though, Bellamy and his cast know that we'll believe what the actors convince us they see. Completely committed performances draw us fully into this unsettling world, with particularly touching work from Williams and Craven as a deeply loving couple whose latest trauma is not their first. An acerbic yet sympathetic Resurreccion anchors his

THE BROTHERS PARANORMAL

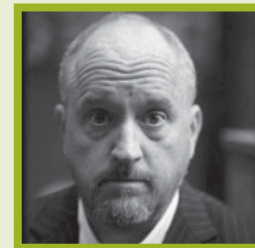
Penumbra Theatre
270 N. Kent St., St. Paul
651-224-3180; through May 26

character's family unit, which has unexpected revelations of its own.

Opening during Mental Health Awareness Month, *The Brothers Paranormal* may inspire varied reactions from those who have experienced the illnesses described onstage. On one hand, Gomolvilas makes a careful point of encouraging compassion and distinguishing clinical depression from ordinary sadness. On the other hand, the play deliberately blurs lines between hallucinations and literal ghosts in a way that creates a suspenseful plot at the expense of a more substantive consideration of what it actually means to live with mental illness.

Ambitiously encompassing topics including climate change and economic inequality, *The Brothers Paranormal* takes on a lot—but then, so do many families such as these. The show largely succeeds, thanks to a well-crafted, often amusing script, and to strong performances that keep these characters grounded even when they're climbing the walls. **C**

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Friday, May 18 8:00 pm Scream It Off The Screen Short Film Competition	Friday, May 10 9:00 pm Hellbound (2018) Digital Presented by Heavy & Fulton Brewing
Friday, May 24 7:00 pm The Parkway Pick-off Bluegrass <i>Battle of the Bands</i>	Saturday Matinee, May 11 1:00 pm Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988) Digital
Friday, May 25 7:00 pm The Shabby Road Orchestra Performs <i>The Beatles' White Album</i>	Thursday, May 16 7:30 pm Dune (1984) 35mm Presentation

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Friday, May 10 The Cedar Presents GREG BROWN with Bo Ramsey Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$144 GA, \$54 Center Section	Thursday, May 16 The Cedar Presents ANDREW BELLE with William Wild Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$25 ADV/\$28 DOS
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BY KEITH HARRIS

I don't want to say music critics will never again disagree about any band as pointlessly as we disagreed about Vampire Weekend in 2008—after all, I'd said that same thing about the Strokes in 2006 and while I don't mind being wrong repeatedly I do try to at least be wrong about different things. When it comes to public dustups over critical lightning rods, history repeats itself: first as farce, then again as farce, then one more damn farce after another. Farces all the way down.

So it's fitting that Rob Harvilla's terrific overview of the band's career arc for the Ringer last week essentially doubled as an oral history of music critics remembering where they were when their promo copy of *Vampire Weekend* came in the mail in 2008. Upon hearing VW's appropriated South African groove, everyone became an Afropop scholar and critic of neocolonialism, because if there's one thing white collegiates love it's finding someone whiter and collegiator to blame for—um, well, that part's never quite clear. Yes, Ezra Koenig was Jewish and Rostam Batmanglij was Iranian-American, but they wore polo shirts or something and went to Columbia. They also sang about their even wealthier peers, and griping about that last bit always made as little sense to me as complaining that Edith Wharton didn't write about coal miners. The rich aren't like you and me, after all, and one advantage of going to expensive schools is you get to keep an eye on the fuckers.

Yet what's interesting about Vampire Weekend's fourth album, *Father of the Bride*, is how irrelevant that backstory is. Sure, the title of “Unbearably White” is Koenig trolling skeptics by leading with his chin, just like when he opened an album by rhyming “horchata” and “balaclava.” And “Rich Man” plays off the old country trope “one rich man in ten has a satisfied mind” (while sampling Sierra Leone's sublime S.E. Rogie) with a giddy “And I'm the one” that recalls Lou Reed whooping, “There are problems in these times/But, ooh, none of them are mine.” But honestly, if I didn't have old axes to grind and new jokes to tell I probably wouldn't have even have brought the past up.

The more significant point of comparison is with Vampire Weekend's 2013 album, *Modern Vampires of the City*, one of the few albums about turning 30 that anyone who's already turned 40 could learn something from. As Koenig tangled with Yahweh, surveyed distant

END OF THE WORLD MUSIC

Vampire Weekend quip cleverly and sing sweetly into the void on *Father of the Bride*



MICHAEL SCHMELLING

New York history, and addressed similar weighty themes, you could almost miss that one of the deepest cuts was the silliest. “Diane Young” was a meditation on mortality disguised as a tossed-off retro rockabilly hiccup that put nostalgia in its place with the witheringly simple “I love the past 'cause I hate suspense.”

Modern Vampires was a series of discrete, carefully constructed chamber pop set pieces, and it felt monumental as a result. *Father of the Bride*, in contrast, is a sprawling collection of 18 snippets, the kind of songs that feel even shorter than they are. Batmanglij has left the band, though he helps on two tracks, and returning producer Ariel Rechtshaid is joined by ringers like Steve Lacy of the adventurous R&B/rap group the Internet. The guitars take on a jazzy indirection that reportedly expands into full-on jam band noodling live. David Fricke

called it the band's *Abbey Road* but it's more their *White Album*, though its disjointedness feels like a deliberate strategy rather than a byproduct of failed collaboration.

There's a tension between ease and control throughout *Father of the Bride*. It's a celebration of Koenig's facility, displaying the effortlessness of his spry tunes and allusive couplets, but its genteel folksiness is also mechanically precise, like a digital rendering of an open-air landscape. The lead track, “Hold You Now” (the first of three songs in which Danielle Haim appears as a wise foil to Koenig's callow wayfarer), interrupts its finger-plucked offhandedness with a simulated flub and a tinkered-with choir, and subsequent tracks similarly pull back the curtain whenever the mood becomes too naturalistic.

Where in the past Koenig's lyrics suggested the impermanent relationships

of early adulthood, these lyrics hint at a more adult arc, voicing the thoughts of a guy who's come to acknowledge that once you care about others your own mortality is the least of your worries. Without getting too autobiographical, that makes sense: Koenig is now 35 and has a son with Rashida Jones. He's looking ahead, but not too far: “2021” sounds like a sci-fi title till you do the math and realize it's only two years away.

And doom lurks around the edge of nearly every chorus here. “How long till we sink till the bottom of the sea?” Koenig wonders sing-songily over a fingersnap and chorus of distant “la la la”s, while elsewhere he predicts “There's an avalanche coming.” He ducks behind aphorisms such as “I know death probably hasn't happened yet” like a Stephen Malkmus whose pose is sincerity rather than slack, but he can also be direct, as when he sings sweetly on what's already the most widely quoted lyric here: “Things have never been stranger/Things are gonna stay strange.”

Things have always been stranger in the psychogeography of Vampire Weekend than Koenig's demeanor has let on. While Paul Simon was the go-to comparison in the early days, that just showed what a skimpy record collection so many '80s babies' parents had. In terms of sensibility (if not sound), Vampire Weekend reminded me also of Talking Heads, uncool posturing a way of uncovering topics and moods flashier rockers had left uncovered as international music styles acknowledge the world beyond the band's limited perspectives. (Just think what Hipster Runoff would've made of David Byrne's crew of RISD carpetbaggers back in the day).

But if Byrne exaggerated his anxiety and alienation, Koenig exaggerated his comfort in his own skin, and even still, he sounds preternaturally thoughtful and sane. That's why he can close the album with “Jerusalem, New York, Berlin,” which confronts “a wicked world” and addresses “That genocide of feeling/That beats in every heart” with a light enough touch to avoid inducing eye rolls. “There's no use in being clever,” Koenig sings on “We Belong Together,” but that doesn't stop him from indulging his cleverness. In fact, *Father of the Bride* is an instruction manual for how to continue to treasure the wit and craft that have helped you survive and love in the past, yet seem hopelessly insufficient tools for addressing the looming apocalypse on the horizon. I for one could sure as hell use one. **CD**

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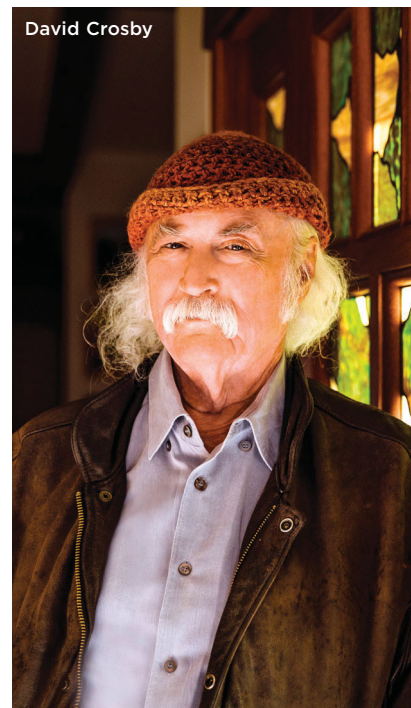
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David Crosby



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An exceptional guitarist and insinuating, idiosyncratic singer, Nils Lofgren is widely known as a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band and Neil Young's Crazy Horse. His periodically under-the-radar solo career stretches from the late '60s band Grin to the just-issued *Blue with Lou*, which features five never-before-heard songs co-written 40 years ago with Lou Reed plus a reggae-ish version of "City Lights" with jazz saxophonist Branford Marsalis. Lofgren and the band are inspired, crafting gritty rock 'n' roll that cries tough on compelling originals too, including the title cut and the Tom Petty tribute "Dear Heartbreaker." 7 p.m. \$50-\$75. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-1010. —RICK MASON

DAVID CROSBY & FRIENDS

PANTAGES THEATRE, FRIDAY 5.10

The surprisingly rejuvenated career of Byrds/Crosby, Stills & Nash co-founder David Crosby continues flourishing as he hits the road with his Sky Trails Band, hot on the heels of last fall's *Here If You Listen*, the fourth critically acclaimed album he's released in his mid-70s. This show focuses on material from Crosby's long career plus his 2017 album *Sky Trails*, an agile blend of folk, pop, and jazz that recalls Joni Mitchell and Steely Dan. Key band members include Crosby's son, keyboardist John Raymond, and guitarist Jeff Pevar, as well as *Listen*, a collaboration with his Lighthouse band. 8 p.m. \$73.50-\$83.50. 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —RICK MASON

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Time to shake things up! In the next three weeks, I invite you to try at least three of the following experiments. 1. See unusual sights in familiar situations. 2. Seek out new music that both calms you and excites you. 3. Get an inspiring statue or image of a favorite deity or hero. 4. Ask for a message from the person you will be three years from now. 5. Use your hands and tongue in ways you don't usually use them. 6. Go in quest of a cathartic release that purges frustration and rouses holy passion. 7. Locate the sweet spot where deep feeling and deep thinking overlap.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to science writer Sarah Zielinski in Smithsonian magazine, fireflies produce the most efficient light on planet Earth. Nearly 100 percent of the energy produced by the chemical reaction inside the insect's body is emitted as a brilliant glow. With that in mind, I propose that you regard the firefly as your spirit creature in the coming weeks. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you, too, will be a dynamic and proficient generator of luminosity. For best results, don't tone down your brilliance, even if it illuminates shadows people are trying to hide.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In 1815, Here's a message from author Susan J. Elliott: "This is not your week to run the Universe. Next week is not looking so good either." Now here's a message from me: Elliott's revelation is very good news! Since you won't have to worry about trying to manage and fine-tune the universe, you can focus all your efforts on your own self-care. And the coming weeks will be a favorable time to do just that. You're due to dramatically upgrade your understanding of what you need to feel healthy and happy, and then take the appropriate measures to put your new insights into action.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): The next three weeks will be an excellent time to serve as your own visionary prophet and dynamic fortune-teller. The predictions and conjectures you make about your future destiny will have an 85-percent likelihood of being accurate. They will also be relatively free of fear and worries. So I urge you to give your imagination permission to engage in fun fantasies about what's ahead for you. Be daringly optimistic and exuberantly hopeful and brazenly self-celebratory.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo poet Stanley Kunitz told his students, "You must be very careful not to deprive the poem of its wild origin." That's useful advice for anyone who spawns anything, not just poets. There's something unruly and unpredictable about every creative idea or fresh perspective that rises up in us. Do you remember when you first felt the urge to look for a new job or move to a new city or search for a new kind of relationship? Wildness was there at the inception. And you needed to stay in touch with the wildness so as to follow through with practical action. That's what I encourage you to do now. Reconnect with the wild origins of the important changes you're nurturing.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I have no complaints about the measures you've taken recently to push past unnecessary limits and to break outworn taboos. In fact, I celebrate them. Keep going! You'll be better off without those decaying constraints. Soon you'll begin using all the energy you have liberated and the spaciousness you have made available. But I do have one concern: I wonder if part of you is worried that you have been too bold and have gone too far. To that part of you I say: No! You haven't been too bold. You haven't gone too far.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Dreamt of a past that frees its prisoners." So wrote Meena Alexander in her poem "Question Time." I'd love for you to have that experience in the coming weeks. I'd love for you to be released from the karma of your history so that you no longer have to repeat old patterns or feel weighed down by what happened to you once upon a time. I'd love for you to no longer have to answer to decayed traditions and outmoded commitments and lost causes. I'd love for you to escape the pull of memories that tend to drag you back toward things that can't be changed and don't matter anymore.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Desire is a profoundly upsetting force," writes author Elspeth Probyn. "It may totally rearrange what we think we want. Desire skews plans and sets forth unthought-of possibilities." In my opinion, Probyn's statements are half-true. The other half of the truth is that desire can also be a profoundly healing and rejuvenating force, and for the same reasons: It rearranges what we think we want, alters plans, and unleashes unthought-of possibilities. How does all this relate to you? From what I can tell, you are now on the cusp of desire's two overlapping powers. What happens next could be upsetting or healing, disorienting or rejuvenating. If you'd like to emphasize the healing and rejuvenating, I suggest you treat desire as a sacred gift and a blessing.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "So much of what we learn about love is taught by people who never really loved us." My Sagittarian friend Ellen made that sad observation. Is it true for you? Ellen added the following thoughts: So much of what we learn about love is taught by people who were too narcissistic or wounded to be able to love very well; and by people who didn't have many listening skills and therefore didn't know enough about us to love us for who we really are; and by people who love themselves poorly and so of course find it hard to love anyone else. Is any of this applicable to what you have experienced, Sagittarius? If so, here's an antidote that I think you'll find effective during the next seven weeks: Identify the people who have loved you well and the people who might love you well in the future—and then vow to learn all you can from them.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn fantasy novelist Laini Taylor creates imaginary worlds where heroines use magic and wiles to follow their bliss while wrangling with gods and rascals. In describing her writing process, she says, "Like a magpie, I am a scavenger of shiny things: fairy tales, dead languages, weird folk beliefs, and fascinating religions." She adds, "I have plundered tidbits of history and lore to build something new, using only the parts that light my mind on fire." I encourage you to adopt her strategies for your own use in the coming weeks. Be alert for gleaming goodies and tricky delicacies and alluring treats. Use them to create new experiences that thrill your imagination. I believe the coming weeks will be an excellent time to use your magic and wiles to follow your bliss while wrangling with gods and rascals.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I was always asking for the specific thing that wasn't mine," wrote poet Joanne Kyger. "I wanted a haven that wasn't my own." If there is any part of you that resonates with that defeatist perspective, Aquarius, now is an excellent time to begin outgrowing or transforming it. I guarantee you that you'll have the potency you need to retrain yourself, so that you will more and more ask for specific things that can potentially be yours; so that you will more and more want a haven that can be your own.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I'm not a fan of nagging. I don't like to be nagged and I scrupulously avoid nagging others. And yet now I will break my own rules so as to provide you with your most accurate and helpful horoscope. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you aren't likely to get what you truly need and deserve in the coming days unless you engage in some polite, diplomatic nagging. So see what you can do to employ nagging as a graceful, even charming art. For best results, infuse it with humor and playfulness.

CROSSWORD

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IT'S A LOT

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Battle between filling stations
- 7 Cuckoo bananas
- 13 Bind legally
- 14 Chrome, e.g.
- 15 Cuckoo bananas
- 16 Leaves in a cafetière
- 17 Lawns where animated characters hang out?
- 19 Common female Russian name
- 22 The Swamp machinery: Abbr.
- 23 Lie
- 24 Read Across America org.
- 25 Coral ____
- 27 Acted as tour guide
- 28 NBA star Anthony's a coward?
- 34 Laundromat array
- 35 Word said when the lights come on
- 38 Stuff El Chapo doesn't want public?
- 42 Soothing sound
- 44 Mlle.: French :: ____ : Spanish
- 45 Wrestler Shamrock
- 46 First Nation people
- 48 Weapon in a silo
- 50 Capital with suburbs Bygdøy and Grünerløkka
- 51 "I Like It" rapper who also makes barrels?
- 55 Psychological paradigm of perfection

- 56 Demands, as respect or payment
- 60 Shakespearean verses
- 61 '80s throwback jeans
- 62 Likely guests at golfer Sam's wedding
- 63 Heart inserts

Down

- 1 Grp. making the right choices?
- 2 Crunch target
- 3 Crafty
- 4 Samhain religion
- 5 Turkish officer
- 6 Co. makeover
- 7 Decreasing instrument?
- 8 Getting into others' business
- 9 Symbol of hard work
- 10 Van Morrison album regularly included in all-time best lists
- 11 Bother
- 12 Took out of context?
- 14 Baby's sock
- 16 Sweetums
- 18 Riding mower brand
- 19 Like music you might rip
- 20 Jet name
- 21 Van Halen singer after Sammy Hagar
- 26 Leave quickly
- 29 "____ culpa"
- 30 Fuck up
- 31 WWII crafts
- 32 LA Kings president Robitaille

- 33 "Catch-22" character who practices crashes
- 36 Old tape comp company
- 37 "It should come ____ surprise"
- 39 Shrubs that share their name with women
- 40 Rank above maj.
- 41 One-named conservative street artist
- 42 What a skeleton key provides
- 43 Whence Henry VIII's first wife Catherine
- 47 Patsy's "Ab Fab" pal
- 49 Some video files
- 50 Speak on the dais
- 52 Tagged
- 53 Vegas actions
- 54 Way out?
- 57 Recycling bin item
- 58 Rock blaster, for short
- 59 "We're in trouble, here," briefly

Last Week's Answer

S	A	G	A	S		J	I	B	E			G	A	S				
A	V	A	I	L		O	P	A	L			R	O	S				
M	A	Z	D	A		E	A	R	S			E	L	S				
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331club

wed : may 8

7pm : **kfai house party presents**

mississippi hot club

9:30pm : **ben eaton**

thu : may 9

9:30pm : **good diction**

fri : may 10

7pm : **laura and sean's**

movie and music trivia

10pm : **wax lead, stonedest,**

trinity test, tyrannicals

sat : may 11

7pm : **trivia mafia presents**

331 drinkin' spelling bee

10pm : **dplv (ep release),**

dreamspook, sym1

sun : may 12

2-4pm : **dr. sketchy's anti-art school**

8pm : **trivia mafia**

mon : may 13

8pm : **the roe family sngrs**

10pm : **doug otto and friends**

tue : may 14

7-9pm : **t.e.e. tuesday early evening**

k.raydio

9:30pm : **331 club and fair state brewing**

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Good Mitten

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FRIDAY MAY 10

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SATURDAY MAY 11

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SUNDAY MAY 12

Trivia Mafia's Brunch Trivia

12PM • BAR STAGE • 21+ • FREE

Vicious Rumors,

Solace In Murder,

Ageless Warrior

7PM • HALL STAGE • 18+ • \$10

MONDAY MAY 13

Fuzzy Math

8PM • BAR STAGE • 21+ • FREE

✖ UPCOMING ✖

WEDNESDAY MAY 15

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THURSDAY MAY 16

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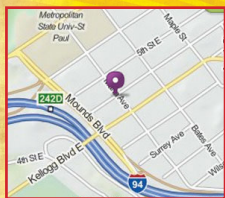
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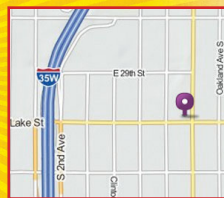
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Best Wishes

Emailing my old hookup: Cool, or creepy?

I'm a 43-year-old straight woman, and I spent the majority of my 30s celibate. At 40, I realized that while I wasn't interested in dating, I was tired of my vibrator. I also realized that it was time

to go forth and fuck with the body I had instead of waiting for the idealized body I wanted. Over the past three years—despite being as fat as ever—I've had fun, satisfying, exciting, creative, sometimes weird, mostly awesome sex. One guy I met on Craigslist was particularly great. He came over, we fucked, it was excellent, we chatted, he left. This happened about four times. And then CL shut down the personals section. The only contact

info I have for the guy no longer works. He has my Gmail address, but he has not emailed me. I'm not a crazy stalker, but he once told me where he works, and I found his info. So I know how to reach him—but that's a spectacularly bad idea, right? Unless you think it isn't? If a dude I'd fucked a few times tracked me down at my job, I would freak out. But I keep thinking: Would it be such a bad idea to send ONE email? Should I just accept that it was great while it lasted?

CAN REALLY ENVISION EVERY POSSIBILITY

Don't do it, CREEP—don't do that thing you already know you shouldn't, that thing you wouldn't want some dude to do to you, that thing you were probably hoping I'd give you permission to do.

You're engaged in what's called "dickful thinking" when guys do it. It's like wishful thinking, but with dicks. Men convince themselves of something improbable ("I bet she likes unsolicited dick pics!") or unlikely ("Showing up at her workplace will convince her to take me back!") because it's what they want. Think of all the guys you've known who said, "She wants me!" when he was the one who wanted her. Clitful thinking may be rarer than dickful thinking—women being less likely to think with their genitals and/or being more risk-averse due to socialization, slut-shaming, and the ever-present threat of gendered violence—but it's not unheard of for a woman to rationalize unacceptable behavior (contacting this man at work) or deploy a self-serving justification (it's just ONE email) or solicit a "You go, girl!" from a sex-advice columnist when what she needs to hear is "Hell no, girl!"

Again, don't do it. This guy has your email address and he knows how to reach you. And since you didn't have all that fun, satisfying, creative sex over the last few years with only him, I shouldn't have to tell you to focus

on your other options. But since your clit is doing your thinking for you right now, I must: Leave this dude alone and go fuck some other dudes.

I have a desperate question for you. I've worked with a vivacious 30-year-old for five years. For three and a half years, she had a live-in boyfriend. She had a different boyfriend recently. I'm 58 years old and not good-looking. She is always sweet to me and compliments me.

She's said that I'm a genius and a gentleman, that I'm a hoot, and that I have a confident walk. I've also overheard her say that she likes older men. However, a few months ago she walked up to me out of the blue and said that she just wants platonic relationships with co-workers. Then I overheard her say to another co-worker: "I put out a sign, he will figure it out eventually." But which sign did she mean? The "platonic" thing or the constant kindness?

WONDERING ON RECIPROCATED KINDNESSES

This probably isn't what you wanted to hear either, WORK, but this woman isn't interested in you—and if you weren't engaged in dickful thinking, you'd know that. But your dick has somehow managed to convince you that you're the "he" she was referring to when she talked about sending someone a sign. You need to ask yourself which is likelier: she went out of her way to let you know she's not interested in dating anyone at work and you're the "he" she was referring to, or the "he" she was referring to was one of the roughly four billion other men on the planet? I don't mean to be cruel, I just want to stop you from doing something that could get you fired or screw up what has, up to now, been a pleasant work relationship. While kindness can sometimes signal romantic interest, the evidence here—including the fact that she didn't send an unambiguous signal when she was single—indicates otherwise.

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